Greenhouse Pest Message, April 15, 2024
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Continue to monitor for **aphids.**
Foxglove aphids are often first found on the underside of the lowest leaves of plants and then suddenly appear on the flowers.

Green peach aphids tend to be located on the growing points and upper leaves of plants.

Flowering plants can support more aphids than non-flowering plants. When plants flower, the upper leaves become more suitable for the aphids to feed upon them. So, aphids can suddenly appear on the flowers.

See previous pest messages of previous pest messages of February 2, February 9, and March 1. and March 22.

Figure 1: Aphids moving to flowers and buds. Photos by L. Pundt

Oedema may develop during cloudy, overcast weather

Oedema may develop on **begonia, ivy geraniums, cactus, cleome, ivy**, and **annual thunbergia**.

Broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and **tomato** can also suffer from this disorder. Houseplants with fleshy leaves such a **jade, peperomia** and **schefflera** may be prone to edema during favorable environmental conditions.

Oedema is thought to be caused by an imbalance of the plant's water uptake and water loss. It develops when the plants roots absorb water at a faster rate than it is transpired through the leaf cells. The enlarged leaf cells divide, and then rupture. This rupturing of

the leaf epidermis and inner cells causes the raised blisters commonly seen on the underside of leaves.

Symptoms vary and depend upon the plant species, and tenderness of the plant tissue.

Figure 2: Oedema on Lobularia and Cole crop vegetable transplants. Photos submitted by growers.

Figure 3: Oedema on Princess Flower and Spider Flower. Photos by L. Pundt


Figure 4: Odema on annual thunbergia. Photos by L. Pundt

With the cloudy weather this spring, it may have been hard to fertilizer your crops as needed. Continue monitoring pH and EC levels.

Back pocket grower website has useful information in English and Spanish on nutritional monitoring and fertilizer use.

Fert Dirt & Squirt also has many resources on nutritional monitoring.

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